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Message Text

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46
ACTION IO-13

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RSC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 OIC-04 CCO-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 OMB-01

HEW-08 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /191 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8373
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
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BONN FOR ASSST SEC NEWSOM

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) - REPORT OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: STATE 048836

1. SUBJECT REPORT CONSISTS OF 142 PAGES TEXT AND 107 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. FOLLOWING IS PRELIMINARY COMMENT US DEL ON CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY, NOT RPT NOT TEXT.

2. IN GENERAL THE THRUST OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA (E/ CN.4/1111) IN ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER PRIOR FOUR REPORTS. WHILE MANY CONCLUSIONS ARE IMPRECISE, E. G., CONCLUSION NO. 48 ON NAMBIA, " THE MORTALITY RATE IS VERY HIGH.", THE
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WORKING GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF BOYE (SENEGAL) NONETHELESS APPEARS TO HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO BE OBJECTIVE IN ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. IN LIGHT OF PAST USG CRITICISMS, WE BELIEVE U. S. DELEGATION SHOULD COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS REVEALS THAT PRESENT AD HOC WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN MORE CAREFUL THAN IN PAST ABOUT THE PROBATIVE VALUE OF THE EVIDENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE 45 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE, 12 CALL FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES TO BE MADE. IN OTHER INSTANCES, THE WORKING GROUP TAKES NOTE OF CONFLICTING EVIDENCE (SEE E. G. CONCLUSION NO. 92).

4. ONLY TWO RECOMMENDATIONS APPEAR PRIMA FACIA TO US TO BE UNACCEPTABLE, VIZ, NUMBERS 100 (DEMANDS NO STATE GIVE HELP TO GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL) AND 101 (MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BY UN).

5. THERE ARE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE U. K. AS ADMINISTERING POWER IN RHODESIA (NOS. 78, 79, 80, 82 AND 83). WE ARE OF THE STRONG OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT THE U. K. SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ADDRESSING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WILL ASCERTAIN THE U. K. DEL' S POSITION ON THESE ITEMS.

6. THE US IS NOT MENTIONED IN ANY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT INCONCLUSION 90, " CERTAIN WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES" ARE CITED AS THE SUPPLIERS OF NAPALM, DEFOLIENTS, HERBICIDES AND CHEMICAL AGENTS TO PORTUGAL.

7. WHILE COMMENTS ON THE REPORT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IN ORDER WHEN THE ITEM IS REACHED ON THE AGENDA, THE CRUCIAL ACTION ITEM WILL BE THE QUESTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. (ITS MANDATE EXPIRES WITH THIS SESSION).

8. DEL RECOMMENDS IT BE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE FOR EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) THERE IS OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF VOTES NOW FOR EXTENSION OF GROUP' S MANDATE, (B) THE PRESENT REPORT
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IS A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OVER PRIOR REPORTS, (C) PRESENT

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REPORT APPEARS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SOME PRIOR CRITICISMS VOICED BY USG, AND (D) POSITIVE VOTE ON EXTENSION WILL DEMONSTRATE US RESPONSIVENESS TO MAJOR AFRICAN CONCERN IN INSTANCE IN WHICH AFRICANS MAKING EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIBLE. RIMESTAD

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